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SIPDIS

AF/S FOR HTREGER
USTR FOR PCOLEMAN
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ETRD](#) [ECON](#) [KPAO](#) [MZ](#) [WTO](#)

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE AND THE WTO: THE RUN UP TO HONG KONG

REF: (A) STATE 221249

(B) STATE 208981 AND PREVIOUS

1. Per reftels, Embassy Maputo delivered demarches to appropriate level Mozambican officials regarding the U.S. Doha proposal. In addition, post placed under Ambassador La Lime's name an op-ed piece on Doha, which ran in local dailies and fax news sheets the week of December 5. The piece was followed by at least two separate and detailed articles in the Mozambican press on the Hong Kong ministerial and the U.S. proposal. Local media covered President Guebuza's comments on WTO, stating that market access was a key issue for Africa. Guebuza called for the abolition and/or reduction of developed-country agricultural subsidies as important steps to help countries in the region.

2. On December 7, Ambassador and USAID Director discussed the U.S. proposal and hopes for the Hong Kong Ministerial with Minister of Industry and Commerce Fernando, and invited the Minister and staff to attend the side meetings being arranged by the USG on trade capacity building. (Note: Though the Minister could not attend the follow-on session due to a previous commitment, the meeting was attended by other MIC staff. End note.) Later, on December 9, in the course of an extensive television interview on the prospects for Hong Kong, Fernando cited the USG position on agriculture as a positive sign for further advances in the Doha round.

LA LIME